sending an army to Africa to threaten Carthage. This army won several major victories and forced Hannibal to return to Africa. The Romans met Hannibal’s army south of Carthage, at Zama. This time the Romans won—although Hannibal himself escaped. The peace treaty that ended the Second Punic War allowed Carthage to keep its lands in Africa, but the Carthaginians were required to give up Spain and pay Rome a large amount of money. They were also forbidden to begin any war without Rome’s permission.

Carthage rebuilt itself after the Second Punic War, and for many years they abided by the terms of the treaty, not declaring any wars. Nevertheless, many Romans worried that Carthage was still a threat. They continued to think this even after Hannibal committed suicide rather than turn himself over to Roman authorities. For many years, a Roman senator named Cato concluded every speech he made in the Senate, no matter what the subject, with the Latin words Carthago delenda est, “Carthage must be destroyed.” When Carthage eventually did declare war on another country, the Romans sent an army to besiege Carthage. This was the beginning of the Third Punic War (149–146 BCE). The Romans surrounded Carthage and starved the city into surrendering. Then they burned the city. They killed many of the city’s inhabitants and sold others into slavery. According to legend, the Romans even poured large amounts of salt into the fields around the city, to ensure that Carthaginians could not grow any crops in the future. This decisive victory made Rome the strongest power in the Mediterranean.

C. The Empire
D. The “Decline and Fall” of Rome
E. The Eastern Roman Empire: Byzantine Civilization

Background
The Roman Republic lasted hundreds of years but eventually gave way to an empire ruled by emperors. The first emperor was Augustus Caesar, who ruled Rome from 27 BCE to 14 CE. The causes that led to the decline of the Republic, however, date back to the unrest caused by Rome’s campaigns of conquest. Once Carthage fell, Rome controlled—either by conquest or alliances—the Mediterranean region from Spain in the northwest, across Asia Minor and the Middle East, to Egypt in the south.

The resulting wealth brought many problems and much civil unrest to Rome. Citizen-farmers who had been the backbone of Roman society found themselves displaced from their farms because of debt. Wealthy patricians bought up their land and created huge estates worked by slave labor. (Many slaves had been taken during the Punic Wars.) Without land and jobs, the farmers drifted to the cities, where large numbers of unemployed already lived. When attempts were made to reform the society and government, corrupt office-holders, including senators accustomed to bribery, sought to protect their positions. In time, mob violence erupted—and then civil wars—brought about in part by ambitious men who wanted power for themselves.

Cross-curricular Teaching Idea
You may wish to teach this section in conjunction with the artworks of ancient Roman civilization, including the Pantheon and Le Pont du Gard, discussed in Section III of Visual Arts on pp. 222–230.
II. Ancient Rome

Julius Caesar

One of these ambitious men was Julius Caesar, who, although a patrician, had always sided with the reformers. Along with Pompey, a fellow general, Caesar was able to silence the opposition and gain control of the government. In 59 BCE, Caesar was made a consul. In the following year, he accepted an appointment to spread Roman rule into Gaul, which is now France. In the Gallic Wars, which lasted from 58 BCE to 51 BCE, Caesar and his army were victorious.

Pompey grew jealous of Caesar and had the Senate order him to disband his army and return to Rome. A defiant Caesar led his army to the Rubicon River, the dividing line between Gaul and Italy, and ordered them to cross the Rubicon. This was equivalent to leading an army against Rome, and, ever since, people have used the expression “crossing the Rubicon” for any dramatic decision from which there is no turning back.

After Caesar crossed the Rubicon, civil war erupted between the supporters of Caesar and Pompey. Pompey fled to Egypt after his defeat at the battle of Pharsalus in 48 BCE and was pursued and killed by Caesar. While in Egypt, Caesar helped Cleopatra take the throne from her younger brother. Caesar also became romantically involved with Cleopatra. But he could not stay in Egypt too long; he had to solidify his grasp on power.

Once Pompey was dead, Julius Caesar began a series of campaigns to secure Roman power in the Mediterranean. It is said that after one battle, he said, “Veni, vidi, vici,” meaning “I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Caesar also instituted a number of reforms. He established public works programs to employ the jobless and gave public land to the landless. He made tax collection more efficient and extended citizenship to members of the empire outside of Italy. He worked to reduce the debt obligations of the poor and sponsored the construction of new roads and buildings.

Julius Caesar also introduced a new calendar. The Julian calendar was based on the work of Egyptian astronomers. It added an extra day every fourth year for leap years. This calendar was used by most of Europe for the next 1,600 years. It was replaced by the Gregorian, itself a refinement of the Julian calendar, in 1582.

Caesar gained so much power in Rome that many people feared he would declare himself king. His ambition and his reforms aroused envy and fear among members of the Senate. A group of 60 senators conspired to remove him. The leaders of this conspiracy were Brutus and Cassius. They assassinated Caesar in the Senate on March 15 (the Ides of March in the Julian calendar), 44 BCE. The biographer Plutarch describes the scene:

. . . those who came prepared for the business enclosed him on every side, with their naked daggers in their hands. Which way soever he turned, he met with blows, and saw their swords leveled at his face and eyes, and was encompassed, like a wild beast in the toils, on every side. For it had been agreed that they should each make a thrust at him . . . for which reason Brutus also gave him one stab in the groin. Some say that he fought and resisted all the rest, shifting his body to avoid the blows, and calling out for help, but that when he saw Brutus’s sword drawn, he covered his face with his robe and submitted, letting himself fall.
Brutus had been a friend of Caesar. After Pompey's defeat at Pharsalus, Caesar had pardoned him and rewarded him with the governorship of Gaul two years later. Some accounts of the assassination report that when Caesar saw Brutus was among those who had stabbed him, he said in surprise, “You, too, Brutus?”

### After Caesar

After Caesar's death, two of his supporters took the lead in the struggle against Brutus and Cassius. The first was Mark Antony, a well-known general who had served as consul with Caesar some years earlier. The second was Caesar's 18-year-old adopted son, Octavian.

Mark Antony set up a public funeral for Caesar. Prior to this funeral, Brutus had explained that the rebels had killed Caesar because he was ambitious and represented a serious threat to Roman liberties. According to Plutarch, the Roman crowds initially accepted this explanation. During the funeral, however, Caesar's supporters read parts of Caesar's will, in which he left a legacy to every Roman citizen. On hearing how Caesar had loved them, the crowds became incensed against the murderers and started a riot. These events are memorably described in Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*.

Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius at the battle of Philippi, in northern Greece. Brutus and Cassius both committed suicide when they saw they had been defeated. For many Romans, suicide was seen as a way to maintain honor after a military defeat and was preferred by some to the alternative of capture and possible humiliation.

Octavian and Antony divided the vast Roman territories into two parts, with Octavian controlling the western part from a base in Rome and Antony the eastern part from a base in Egypt, where he followed in Caesar's footsteps by starting a romance with Cleopatra. However, tensions soon broke out between the co-rulers. As a gesture of political unity, Antony agreed to marry Octavian's sister, Octavia, but his real love was Cleopatra. Antony eventually left Octavia and went back to Cleopatra.

Octavian was angry at Antony for Antony's treatment of his sister, among other reasons, and he did not want to share the empire. Ultimately, Octavian led an army against Antony and Cleopatra. The decisive battle was a naval battle, fought at Actium along the coast of Greece. During the battle, Cleopatra's ships turned and fled and Antony followed. Octavian was victorious and pursued the defeated lovers to Egypt. Antony committed suicide and later Cleopatra also committed suicide by applying a poisonous asp to her skin. These twin suicides put an end to one of history's great romantic affairs and left Octavian in control of the Roman world. The celebrated love affair between Antony and Cleopatra and its tragic ending have been depicted in numerous plays and movies, including Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.

### Augustus Caesar

After the defeat of Antony and Cleopatra, Octavian became the sole ruler of Rome. Four years later, a grateful Senate awarded him the honorary title of Augustus, meaning sacred. While Octavian, now Augustus Caesar, was careful to retain the structures of the republican government, he was actually given much